

## FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2008*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to the unexpected last-minute appearance of this measure on the legislative calendar this week, a prior commitment has prevented me from voting on the FISA amendments. I have strongly opposed every previous FISA overhaul attempt, and I certainly would have voted against this one as well.

The main reason I oppose this latest version is that it still clearly violates the Fourth Amendment by allowing the Federal Government to engage in the bulk collection of American citizens' communications without a search warrant. That U.S. citizens can have their private communication intercepted by the government without a search warrant is anti-American, deeply disturbing, and completely unacceptable.

In addition to gutting the Fourth Amendment, this measure will deprive Americans who have had their rights violated by telecommunication companies involved in the Administration's illegal wiretapping program the right to seek redress in the courts for the wrongs committed against them. Worse, this measure provides for retroactive immunity, whereby individuals or organizations that broke the law as it existed are granted immunity for prior illegal actions once the law has been changed. Ex post facto laws have long been considered anathema in free societies under rule of law. Our Founding Fathers recognized this, including in Article I section 9 of the Constitution that "No bill of attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed." How is this FISA bill not a variation of ex post facto? That alone should give pause to supporters of this measure.

Madam Speaker, we should understand that decimating the protections that our Constitution provides us against the government is far more dangerous to the future of this country than whatever external threats may exist. We can protect this country without violating the Constitution and I urge my colleagues to reconsider their support for this measure.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION  
CALLING ON EGYPT TO RESPECT  
AND UPHOLD RELIGIOUS FREE-  
DOM FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS**

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution calling on the Government of Egypt to respect and uphold religious freedom for all of its citizens. In the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2008 report, Egypt remains on the watch list of countries that seriously violate freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief.

Members of the Coptic Orthodox Church, the largest non-Muslim minority in Egypt, have a very difficult time. In the last several years there has been an upsurge of attacks targeting Copts. Such attacks include arson of churches, destruction of Coptic-owned property and businesses and physical assaults.

While authorities often arrest suspects in these cases, formal charges are rarely pursued.

The Baha'i religion has been banned since 1960 due to a presidential decree. Members of the Baha'i faith have difficulties obtaining civil documents such as official ID cards, birth certificates, passports, and marriage licenses.

Material vilifying Jews regularly appears in state-controlled and semi-official media, including anti-Semitic cartoons aimed at influencing the opinions of Egyptian youth. The Jehovah's Witnesses cannot congregate in numbers greater than five without facing harassment by government security services.

This resolution is modeled after a similar measure recently passed by the European Union Parliament. The United States was founded upon the principle that all men are endowed with certain unalienable rights, including religious freedom. Ronald Reagan once said that the Constitution is "a kind of covenant. It is a covenant we've made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind."

The United States Congress has a responsibility to speak out for these religious minorities. I encourage all my colleagues, who care about persecuted believers of all faiths, to cosponsor this resolution and add the House's voice to that of the EU Parliament in calling on the Government of Egypt to fully implement and protect the rights of religious minorities as full citizens.

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE  
OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of early childhood education and development programs. The 110th Congress has shown strong commitment to improving education for students of all ages. Notably, we reauthorized Head Start, the premier early childhood program that prepares low income children for school. Now, we must start earlier to prepare our youngest citizens for school. To this end, the Committee on Education and Labor recently passed H.R. 2343, the Education Begins at Home Act, which will improve child well-being, school readiness, and parent involvement in their children's lives.

The Education Begins at Home Act provides the first dedicated funding stream for home visiting programs. Home visiting involves voluntary meetings between specialists in child development and parents and children in their home. The home visitors help develop parenting skills, foster positive child development, and offer support. These programs reduce the stress associated with parenting, assist parents in understanding the educational and developmental needs of their children, and promote healthy parent-child relationships. At least 37 States have these types of programs in place; however, they lack a stable funding stream to ensure effective, long-term services. This bill also targets English language learners and military families. These groups often lack natural support systems that the programs help develop.

Education can never begin too early; the earliest years of brain development are most important, as shown through studies such as those by the National Research Council. High

quality early education programs have helped improve school performance and lower high school drop-out rates. They also have helped reduce the rates of child abuse and identify developmental delays early in life. These programs share common components that contribute to their success—teachers who are knowledgeable about the development of young children, strong staff development and training, and activities that stimulate cognitive as well as social skills. It is these aspects that have brought success time and time again.

Investment in early childhood is sound policy and cost effective as well. A study done by economist Robert G. Lynch in 2007 showed that high-quality programs would save both state and the federal government billions of dollars over decades. According to the study, the total annual benefits of a universal program would begin to pay for itself within nine years by growing a margin each year. According to Lynch, a universal early education program would generate \$191 billion in benefits for the federal government by the year 2050. This result is achieved by creating many more productive members of society and decreasing the number of and associated costs related to incarcerated citizens.

These particular benefits are only a few of the multitude that result from early childhood education programs. Learning is a lifelong activity and children especially deserve the best, beginning with the first day of their life. I urge my colleagues and Congress to continue this investment in early childhood during the remainder of the 110th Congress and in subsequent sessions.

**IN TRIBUTE TO COUNCIL MEMBER  
BILL WARD**

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hayward, California City Council Member Bill Ward, who will be retiring from office at the end of his term on July 8, 2008. Bill was elected to the Hayward City Council in 1984 and has dedicated 24 years of exemplary service to the city of Hayward during his tenure.

Bill has been a Hayward resident since 1975. He and his wife, Gail, have two adult children. He received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Howard University in Washington, DC and a Master's degree in City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

During his tenure as a member of the Hayward City Council, Bill served on many of the Council's Committees, including the Downtown Committee, Commercial Center Improvement Committee, Technology Application Committee and was the Council Liaison to the Economic Development Committee. He has been instrumental in the initiation and development of many significant projects in Hayward.

He has served on the city of Hayward's Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Adjustments, and the Citizens Advisory Commission. He is also a former member of the St. Rose Hospital Foundation.

Bill's professional organizations include the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association, and the Association of Environmental Professionals.

His intergovernmental agency assignments included service on the Alameda County Housing Authority, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the East Bay Dischargers Authority, and the Regional Airport Planning Committee.

Bill Ward has left an indelible mark on the city of Hayward and beyond. On July 10, 2008, there will be a farewell celebration to thank Council Member Bill Ward for his dedicated public service. I join in applauding him for a job well done and wish him well in his retirement.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PETER H. KEHOE

#### HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Peter H. Kehoe, who this Saturday will become the 87th president of the American Optometric Association (AOA).

For many years, Dr. Kehoe has been a leader in his profession at the State, regional and national levels. He is a past president of the Illinois Optometric Association and the West Central Illinois Optometric Society. In 2001, the State association named him Illinois' "Optometrist of the Year."

Dr. Kehoe is a graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry and served on its Alumni Council Board of Directors. A Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, he is in private practice in my hometown of Galesburg, IL, and is a past president of the Galesburg Lions Club.

Doctors of optometry are the Nation's largest eye care providers, serving patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country. The American Optometric Association is the professional society for optometrists nationwide and has more than 34,000 members. Dr. Kehoe will lead the association along its mission to improve eye and vision care in the United States.

Dr. Peter H. Kehoe has built a renowned record of service and leadership in his profession and in his community. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the AOA. The 17th District of Illinois is proud to have Dr. Kehoe as a constituent and I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement and wishing him good luck.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 440, H. Res. 1051—Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### CONGRATULATING THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America, the leading training program for students seeking instruction in the personal development of leadership and character. Their training program gives students the necessary tools to lead the next generation of young Americans in the traditions, principles, and wisdom imparted to us by our Founding Fathers. The quality of this training assures me of America's bright future as the leader of the world.

The Leadership Training Institute of America is a cultural think tank providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization encourages youth to apply and excel in leadership and critical thinking skills, study world view conflicts and strategies, network with outstanding leaders, and pursue careers in influential sectors of society.

The Leadership Training Institute of America trains and equips young men and women to be leaders with high standards of personal morality and integrity. The participants are exposed to the major philosophies, views, and issues of our world today and are encouraged to become leaders with convictions built on scientific knowledge, historical record, and Biblical wisdom.

Our Nation is in great need of young men and women of character to lead in every arena of our society.

So, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to commend the vision and accomplishments of the Leadership Training Institute of America. I salute the dedicated staff of this outstanding organization and encourage its increased influence among our Nation's youth.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MESSAGE HOUR

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand here tonight on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and we discuss the current energy crisis we are facing and the rising gas prices that continue to take a devastating toll on Americans. As we head into the summer months, the Congressional Black Caucus felt it's important to shine a light on this growing problem. More importantly, we wanted the American public to know that the CBC is taking important steps to combat these issues through our CBC Energy Task Force.

I along with the CBC have been working hard to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down record gas prices, and launch a cleaner, smarter energy future for America that lowers costs and creates hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

In an effort to combat soaring gas prices, which are currently hovering around \$4.00 a

gallon, I joined with a number of my colleagues in supporting legislation to temporarily suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, SPR, until the end of the year. Filling of the SPR takes 70,000 barrels of oil off the market each day and a temporary suspension could reduce gas prices from 5 to 24 cents a gallon, which would be a critical first step for America's families, businesses, and the economy.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is roughly 97 percent full—the highest level ever—with enough oil to meet our national security needs. Currently, we have more in SPR, than we did in 2006 (702 million barrels vs. 688 million in 2006) and the inventory exceeds our International Energy Program commitment to maintain at least 90 days of oil stocks in reserve including private and public stocks.

The SPR has been tapped or suspended before by President Bush, President Clinton, and the first President Bush. In 2000, after such action, the price of oil dropped down by one-third—from \$30 to \$20 per barrel.

In addition to this initiative, I have and continue to support legislative action on gas prices including: holding OPEC, controlled entities and oil companies accountable for oil price fixing, cracking down on oil price gouging and repealing subsidies for profit-rich "Big Oil" companies so we can invest in a renewable energy for the future.

Additionally, the CBC has been working diligently on the issue of climate control. We recognize the importance of protecting our environment by transitioning from traditional energy sources, such as coal and petroleum, to clean sources, such as bio-fuel, wind, and solar energy. I am a strong supporter of putting more resources into creating alternative energy sources. When we invest in these alternative energy sources it also benefits our increasingly fragile environment.

Additionally, the new energy sources will create much needed green jobs. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, Ohio stands to gain approximately 7,360 new jobs from renewable energy development. These jobs will be beneficial to both our economy and our environment.

I thank Representative TOWNS and the entire CBC Energy Task Force for their leadership on this issue.

#### HONORING MONSIGNOR JOSEPH MURPHY

#### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who has faithfully served the people of Staten Island for many years, Monsignor Joseph Murphy.

Ordained a priest in 1954, Monsignor Murphy then completed three years of graduate work at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. After his completion of studies, he served as a Parochial Vicar at Saint Joseph's Parish in Croton Falls, New York from 1957–1959. Following that, he was assigned to the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of New York from 1959 to 1985, and was the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York from 1968 to 1985. Finally, in 1985 he